

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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P 111530Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 199182

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, US, KS

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA

REF: SEOUL 6180

1. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK'S UNDERSTANDING OF HABIB'S AUGUST 6 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HAHM IS NOT CORRECT. HABIB SIMPLY REITERATED OUR VIEW THAT, GIVEN OUR EMPHASIS ON DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, IT NOT POSSIBLE TO MOVE FOR PRIORITY BEFORE NAM SUMMIT. AT SAME TIME, HABIB POINTED OUT THAT WE ALSO BELIEVE WE MUST BE READY TO MAKE EARLY DECISION ON PRIORITY IMMEDIATELY AFTER NAM SUMMIT.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD TELL FONMIN THAT OUR POSITION ON PRIORITY REMAINS THAT WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO SEEK PRIORITY IN ADVANCE OF NAM, WE DO WISH TO BE FULLY PREPARED TO PUT IN RESOLUTION IF THIS SHOULD APPEAR WARRANTED BY NORTH KOREAN ACTIONS, LANGUAGE ADOPTED AT NAM, NATURE OF DEBATE

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AT NAM, OR STRONG NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA AT

NAM. THIS IS WHY WE ARE SEEKING CORE GROUP AGREEMENT ON TEXTS OF RESOLUTION AND EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM AND STAND-BY AGREEMENT ON COSPONSORSHIP.

3. PHRASE "NEW LEGAL STRUCTURE" WAS USED TO CONFORM WITH LANGUAGE OF SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN PARA 4 OF EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM, AND RELATED TO LANGUAGE WE HAVE USED DESCRIBING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AS ONLY LEGAL INSTRUMENT BINDING THE PARTIES TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE. "NEW LEGAL STRUCTURE" SEEMS TO US TO BE SIMPLY MORE PRECISE PHRASING OF "APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS."

IT DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN OUR VIEW OF PURPOSE OF FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE. (FYI: ROK EMBASSY, ON INSTRUCTIONS, ALSO ASKED DEPARTMENT AUGUST 9 FOR EXPLANATION ON USE OF THIS PHRASE. ABOVE POINTS WERE USED IN RESPONSE AND WE PRESUME REPORTED BY NOW TO MOFA. END FYI.) ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE199182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PRMAYHEW:IO/UNP:CSTERMER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-0230
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760863/aaaacdeo.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 SEOUL 6180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, US, KS, UNGA, (HABIB, PHILIP), (PAK TONG-CHIN)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006